

second surface portions, thus to melt the polymeric materials only along the bond site and the immediate region thereof; and ^{f1} allowing the previously melted polymeric materials to cool and solidify to form a fusion bond between the catheter tubing and the dilatation balloon.

A' ¹⁶ 25. The balloon catheter of Claim ¹⁵ 24 wherein: ^{f1} said interface of the first and second surfaces is annular, and the step of directing the monochromatic energy includes focusing the beam to position a focal area of the beam substantially at the interface, and moving the focal area, relative to the catheter tubing and the dilatation balloon, in an annular path along the interface to define said bond site.

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In response to the Restriction Requirement of July 27, 1992, the applicant elects Claims 16-23 directed to a balloon catheter. This election is made without traverse, and is confirmed in cancelling original Claims 1-15 directed to a fusion bonding process.

New Claims 24 and 25 are product-by-process claims, further defining the balloon catheter of Claim 16 as formed according to process steps as defined in these claims.

While accepting the restriction requirement without traverse, the applicant respectfully traverses the indication in the Official Action that the product as claimed can be made by a materially different process. As indicated in the present specification at Page 4 beginning at Line 32, and at Page 6 beginning at Line 16, certain structural features such as a short distal tip, narrow yet reliable fusion bond and the absence of crystallization, arise from the unique process disclosed in the present application. The alternative processes suggested in the